

Testimony submitted to the Environment Committee on  
HB 5729, AN ACT MAKING MINOR REVISIONS TO  
THE PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES CONCERNING  
KENNEL SERVICES ADVERTISEMENTS

March 20, 2015

My name is Tara Fleming and I am the owner of Yuppy Puppy, a small pet shop in Guilford.

We are a small "Mom and Pop Shop" with a reputation for only selling puppies from in-state breeders, almost all of whom are exempt from USDA licensing because they are too small. We have never shipped any pups in from out of state.

The breeders I work with have not only been interviewed by me, but in turn they also have interviewed and researched me. I put my reputation on the line every time I buy and sell a puppy, so it is imperative to me to only use scrupulous, local breeders. I have had GREAT success with this business model (and I sleep well at night).

Unfortunately, the new law that went into effect in October prohibits me from buying dogs from any breeder who is not USDA licensed, leaving me with very few sources for puppies. I have had to cut hours and staff.

I love animals and I love what I do. I would love to be able to purchase local puppies again and provide them to local families. I have many testimonies from grateful customers who have purchased healthy, well adjusted puppies from me. I attribute this success to using local breeders with good puppies.

I am a breeder myself so I am very familiar with what it takes to be a responsible, respectable breeder. Some activists claim that no responsible breeder would sell to a pet shop, but that is just absurd and untrue.

Please consider amending the law to allow us to once again source puppies from small, local breeders who may not be able to register with the USDA. Thank you for your time.